

DEUSOP14 - Examining Unidentified Media

Table of Contents

1. Scope
2. Background
3. Safety
4. Materials Required
5. Standards and Controls
6. Calibration
7. Procedures
8. Sampling
9. Calculations
10. Uncertainty of Measurement
11. Limitations
12. Documentation
13. References

1. Scope

- 1.1. This standard operating procedure addresses the acquisition and examination of media that is not initially recognized.

2. Background

- 2.1. To establish the practices for documenting the examination of evidence to conform to the requirements of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Digital Evidence Unit *Quality Assurance Manual*, the accreditation standards under ISO/IEC 17025:2017, and any supplemental standards.

3. Safety

- 3.1. If necessary due to condition of evidence received (e.g. hazardous and/or biological substances), wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., lab coat, gloves, mask, eye protection), when carrying out standard operating procedures.
- 3.2. Refer to DEUSOP01 – Handling Digital Evidence for additional precautions and requirements when examining evidence items.

4. Materials Required

- 4.1. Toolkit, imaging software/hardware, connector cables, write-blocker.

5. Standards and Controls

5.1. Not applicable.

6. Calibration

6.1. Not applicable.

7. Procedures

- 7.1. Determine what type of device and what type of data the device could contain. Preliminary research using resources such as the Internet may assist with defining the type of device and data.
- 7.2. Once a preliminary hypothesis of the device is established, identify what tools are necessary for acquisition and/or examination.
- 7.3. Record unique identifiers of device on appropriate DEU acquisition form.
- 7.4. Acquire data using tools identified and record methodology. If possible, adhere to DEUSOP02 – Mobile Device Acquisition, DEUSOP05 – Digital Device Acquisition, DEUSOP13 – Live Imaging a Device and/or any other DEU standard operating procedure, if applicable.
- 7.4.1. If there is a deviation from any other DEU procedure, record the deviation and the technique used on DEUF05 – Forensic Examination.
- 7.4.2. Record deviation, reason for deviation and outcome on DEU Deviation Log.
- 7.4.3. If data from the device was acquired and there is no prior record of data acquisition using the selected technique/methodology, use another validated tool to ensure the integrity of the data acquired. This may or may not be possible once data has been extracted.
- 7.4.4. If no data was capable of being acquired or examined, note this on acquisition/examination form and on DEU Deviation Log, if applicable.
- 7.5. Create two copies of the original evidence: a best evidence and a working copy. Create a best evidence copy on appropriate storage media. Enter the item into LIMS and mark with appropriate DFS number for storage in DEU evidence. Create working copy and store the image on DEUNet. The image should be saved in the correct case folder. Within the case folder, the image should be saved in the “Evidence” folder, inside a folder that has the same name as evidence identification (e.g., Item 0006/Item 0006.E01).

8. Sampling

8.1. Not applicable.

9. Calculations

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Uncertainty of Measurement

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Limitations

11.1. Due to damage or other factors, some or all of the above examinations might not be possible. It is at the discretion of the digital evidence analyst as to what examinations are necessary and if they should be conducted.

12. Documentation

12.1. DEUSOP01 – Handling Digital Evidence

12.2. DEUSOP02 – Mobile Device Acquisition

12.3. DEUSOP05 – Digital Device Acquisition

12.4. DEUSOP13 – Live Imaging a Device

12.5. DEUF05 – Forensic Examination

12.6. DEU Deviation Log

13. References

13.1. Digital Evidence Unit Quality Assurance Manual (Current Version).

13.2. DFS Departmental Operations Manuals (Current Versions).

13.3. Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Laboratory Operations Manuals (Current Versions).

13.4. Digital Evidence Unit Laboratory Operations Manuals (Current Versions).

13.5. SWGDE Capture of Live Systems (v2.0 September 5, 2014).

13.6. SWGDE Best Practices for the Acquisition of Data from Novel Digital Devices
(v1.0 February 21, 2017).